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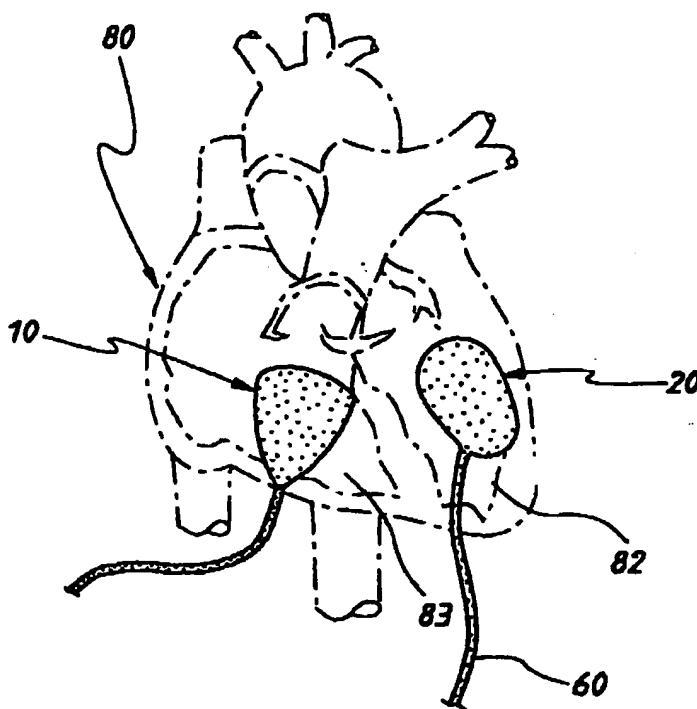
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(54) Title: **AN ASSIST DEVICE FOR THE FAILING HEART**



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(57) Abstract: A heart actuator device for use in heart assist apparatus, which device includes a paddle-like main body. The main body has a heart compressing wall, which in use is adapted to be affixed to at least a region of the heart, and a distal wall, which in use is adapted to be distal that region of the heart. The heart compressing wall is movable in a direction relatively away from the distal wall, so as, in use to compress at least that region of the heart thereby assisting movement of the heart wall.